

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division
Investigative Activity Report**

Case Number

0600-0539

Case Title:

Team, Inc.

Reporting Office:

Dallas, TX, Area Office

Subject of Report:

TCEQ Air Inspector Ashraf

Activity Date:

August 30, 2010

Reporting Official and Date:

[REDACTED], SA

06-OCT-2010, Signed by [REDACTED], SA

Approving Official and Date:

[REDACTED], SAC

12-OCT-2010, Approved by [REDACTED] SAC

SYNOPSIS

08/30/2010 - Ashraf is an Air Inspector with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and is the primary inspector of the Valero McKee refinery in Sunray TX. Ashraf and Vance explained how the LDAR program is run at the Valero facility. Ashraf recalled that during his most recent inspection he heard Valero staff talking about a meeting between Valero and Team to discuss problems with components not being monitored and poor monitoring techniques.

DETAILS

On 08/30/2010 Special Agent [REDACTED] and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) [REDACTED] interviewed Eddy Vance, Air/ Waste Section Manager with TCEQ, and Saied Ashraf, Environmental Investigator with TCEQ. Vance and Ashraf were interviewed at their place of work, 3918 Canyon Dr. Amarillo, TX 79109, regarding the Valero McKee refinery in Sunray TX.

Ashraf is the primary regulatory inspector of the facility and deals with Valero personnel. Ashraf said he does not deal with any Team Industrial Services (Team) employees, other than on a cursory level during inspections. Ashraf was aware that Team is the Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) contractor at the refinery and that Team provides information to Valero which Valero forwards to TCEQ.

Ashraf was aware that Team billed Valero per component monitored and speculated this could be incentive for Team employees to monitor more components than physically possible. However, Ashraf was unaware of any such activity.

Ashraf and Vance explained how the LDAR program is run at the Valero facility. Ashraf said LDAR and the actual component monitoring makes up a small percentage of the facilities air program. The components are monitored on a revolving basis.

The facility has over 80,000 components in the LDAR program. Every quarter certain components are required to be monitored for leakage. If a component is scheduled to be monitored and is not, Valero must provide a reason in their quarterly report to TCEQ. This quarterly reporting is required under Valero's Consent Decree. Ashraf noted it is possible for a component to be skipped without raising suspicion; a component can be marked "out of service", or "shut down". Ashraf said the only way he knew to prove otherwise was to review the maintenance history of suspect components.

Ashraf said his typical inspection, of the facility, involves random samples of final monitoring data provided by Valero. Although Ashraf has access to the raw data produced by Team he does not

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usually look at it.

Ashraf recalled that during his most recent inspection he heard Valero staff talking about a meeting between Valero and Team to discuss problems with components not being monitored and poor monitoring techniques. Ashraf could not recall specifics. Ashraf also recalled the facility receiving about 28 violations; however LDAR did not account for a very high percentage of those. Ashraf added there was some missed monitoring of components.

Ashraf said his points of contact at the facility were [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ashraf offered copies of his inspection reports; none were taken at that time.

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